

From: Charlie Thompson
To: NRWRT(JMANN)
Date: 10/16/98 4:46pm
Subject: Granite Creek -Reply

I have known and worked with Keith Allred for many years in our efforts to recover Bonneville cutthroat trout on the Deep Creek Mountains. He is involved because they are a principle water user on Granite Creek and Red Cedar Creek. We have plans to restore Bonneville cutthroat in both of these streams. Keith has been very involved with this recovery effort by helping us collect, move, and in rear cutthroat near their reservoir.

The only letter that I have discussed with Keith is a letter from Utah Council of Trout Unlimited to Lee Simms Division of Water Rights (dated 9/1/98) requesting that the Division of Water Rights demand that water be released from diversions on Granite Creek and Red Cedar Creek to provide water down stream for a fishery. This letter implies that the Division of Wildlife Resources is in favor of this action. I have no knowledge of any letter or letters sent by your office to any one about this matter

I am not in a position to speak for the Division, but, my position is that we can provide for restoration of the Bonneville cutthroat trout in Granite Creek and Red Cedar Creek above their diversion and I am not in favor of using Bonneville cutthroat trout recovery as leverage to force changes in points of diversion or amount of diversion. I believe that we can provide for recovery and allow local water rights holders all the legal rights they hold to divert water from their present diversions. This is the position I have expressed to our Division.

We feel that in order to succeed with the cutthroat recovery we need support from local land owners, and insisting on impacting their water rights is not the way to get their support.

The letter to Mr. Simms, from Trout Unlimited is the only letter I have discussed with Keith. The letter was not discussed in our WRAC meeting nor to my knowledge at the board meeting. The letter was not discussed with the Division of Wildlife Resources by Trout Unlimited before it was mailed to you. We have never felt or implied that the Division of Water Rights has done anything that effects our credibility with the public. I am concerned about the recommendations made by individuals representing Trout unlimited, but, their recommendations do not imply any action on the part of Water Rights.

I hope this provides the information that you may need with regard to our Division on this matter.